

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
SOUTHERN DIVISION

NICHOLAS JAMES NELSON,  Petitioner,  vs.  J.W. COX, IN HIS CAPACITY AS WARDEN OF YANKTON FEDERAL PRISON CAMP;  Respondent.	4:20-CV-04199-KES   ORDER
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**INTRODUCTION**

Pending before the court is a *pro se* habeas petition pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241 filed by petitioner Nicholas James Nelson, an inmate at the Yankton Federal Prison Camp in Yankton, South Dakota. See Docket No. 1. In his petition, Mr. Nelson admits he has not yet exhausted his administrative remedies provided by the Bureau of Prisons (“BOP”). Id. On motion by respondent, this court recommended his petition be dismissed without prejudice until he did exhaust his administrative remedies. See Docket No. 17. On April 1, 2021, six days ago, the district court rejected that recommendation and ordered respondent to respond to Mr. Nelson’s petition within 21 days. Respondent has not yet filed its response nor is it yet due.

Mr. Nelson now files an emergency motion to be released pending the respondent’s response to his petition. See Docket No. 22. Courts do have some discretion to grant bail to a habeas petitioner pending a decision on the merits, but the petitioner must show a substantial claim of law based on the facts and some circumstance making the request for bail exceptional and

deserving of special treatment in the interests of justice. See, e.g. Dotson v. Clark, 900 F.2d 77, 79 (6th Cir. 1990). Cf. Martin v. Solem, 801 F.2d 324, 329 (8th Cir. 1986) (holding court has inherent power to grant bail to a state prisoner pending a decision on the merits of his habeas petitioner if he shows a substantial federal constitutional claim that presents a clear case on the law and a clear, readily apparent, case on the facts as well as the existence of some circumstance which makes his request for bail exceptional in the interests of justice.) Prisoners are rarely granted bail under this discretionary power of the court. Martin, 801 F.2d at 329.

Mr. Nelson has not shown either of these factors. He cites to the increased risk of Covid infection among inmates, but if true, this is a circumstance attendant to every federal prisoner. Mr. Nelson's circumstances are not exceptional and deserving of special treatment as compared to all other federal prisoners. Also, respondent has yet to address the merits of Mr. Nelson's petition, so it is unknown whether he has presented a substantial claim of law based on the facts.

Based on the foregoing, it is

ORDERED that Mr. Nelson's emergency motion for release (Docket No. 22) is denied.

DATED April 7, 2021.

BY THE COURT:

  
VERONICA L. DUFFY  
United States Magistrate Judge